



## **Biogeographical Macroinvertebrate Diversity Analysis of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park**

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The over exploitation of natural resources has caused land degradation, soil erosion and biodiversity loss not only in South Africa, but the rest of the world. Proper management strategies need to be in place to better conserve natural resources and to have a sustainable system.

Biotope Quality Index (BQI) is a novel environmental management tool, which makes use of invertebrates to monitor ecological quality by indicating areas affected by environmental disturbance. The Biotope Quality Index (BQI) can be used in conservation such as national parks, of different biome system to assist in revealing areas where human disturbance and stress impacted.

The Golden Gate Highlands National Park is affected by human influenced disturbance such as soil erosion and alien plant invasion, which pose ecological stress and directly affect the ecosystem. All these threats pose challenges to the environmental conservation and the Biotope Quality Index (BQI) can assist to monitor ecosystem integrity and quality (i.e. environmental health) in long term. The study thus would be providing statistical and taxonomic data which will assist for better conservation management and gain information on Afrotropical invertebrate.

For more information: Refer to Dr Bredenhand's profile listed under Researchers/Project leaders